



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

K-1825CIP2

Applicant : Jyoji Mishina et al.
Title : AIRBAG
Serial No. : 09/644,793
Filed : August 24, 2000
Group Art Unit : 3619
Examiner : Christopher R. Buchanan

Hon. Director of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

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REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

In the Examiner's answer mailed on November 15, 2002, it was held in paragraph 7, i.e. Grouping of Claims, that the rejection of claims 1-16 stand or fall together because appellant's brief does not include a statement that this grouping of claims does not stand or fall together and reason in support thereof.

However, in the section of GROUPING OF CLAIMS on page 4 of the appeal brief, it was held that claims should be grouped separately to claims 1-4, 9-13, 15 and 16, wherein claim 1 is contested, (2) claims 7 and 8, wherein claim 7 is contested, and (3) claims 5, 6 and 14, wherein claim 14 is contested. Also, in the section (2) on page 9, especially page 9, lines 11-18 of the appeal brief, the reason of the regrouping is explained.

Therefore, the Examiner's answer in this section is incorrect.

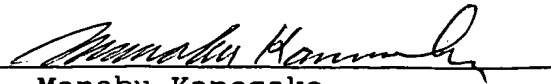
The claims pending in the application are patentable over the

prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

KANESAKA AND TAKEUCHI

by



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